



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **CLARKSVILLE BYPASS PROJECT MANAGER SENTENCED FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE REFUSE ACT**

(Richmond, VA) – Loch Lawrence Louman, age 47, of Washington State, was sentenced today by United States Magistrate Judge Dennis W. Dohnal to 30 days in prison and a fine of \$1,500.00 for depositing a pollutant in a navigable water of the United States. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; James L. Thompson, Jr., Special Agent-In-Charge, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Geoffrey A. Cherrington, Special Agent-in-Charge, Defense Criminal Investigative Service; and David K. Paylor, Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), announced the sentence.

According to court documents, in the Spring of 2000, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) awarded a contract to AMEC Civil, L.L.C., previously doing business as Morse Diesel Civil, L.L.C., to complete the Clarksville Bypass Project in Mecklenburg, Virginia. This project involved the expansion of Route 58 south of the existing bridge, as well as the construction of a new bridge across the J.H. Kerr Reservoir. The J.H. Kerr reservoir is legally classified as a "State Water" and a "navigable water of the United States." In accordance with state and federal law, VDOT obtained a Virginia Water Protection Permit ("VWP permit") for the project, which prohibited the pouring of wet or uncured concrete into State waters as well as the dumping of construction material or waste material into the reservoir.

Louman admitted that on August 1, 2001, he was knowingly responsible for the intentional discharge of concrete slurry into the J.H. Kerr Reservoir. On that day, AMEC employees, under the supervision of Louman, were in the process of pouring wet concrete into a circular metal casing or form, also known as a caisson, in the reservoir. During the pour, however, the concrete pump failed, which required the employees to abort the pouring operation. Louman ordered employees to evacuate the concrete from the caisson using an airlift. The evacuation process resulted in the knowing and intentional discharge of water mixed with concrete slurry and ad-mixture to be discharged into the J.H. Kerr Reservoir, in violation of the law.

The case was investigated by agents of DCIS, DEQ, and the EPA and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys David T. Maguire, Olivia N. Hawkins and Michael S. Dry, as well as David Lastra, EPA Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsel.

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